

Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Col. Sam Angelella (center) meets with airmen during breakfast at the dining facility Jan. 9. Col. Angelella answered questions and listened to comments from airmen at the quarterly meal.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community.

*Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to **commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil**.*

*Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in **The Shaw Spirit**.*

Q During a base exercise, why do we have to pay extra for bus transportation before and after school plus pay for extended day care at the Youth Center?

A The transportation fees charged in the school-age program cover a small portion of the cost to keep the non-appropriated funded buses operational. Holidays and early dismissals are not included in these fees, and the program continues on down days. If the buses are not running, credit is applied to the next week's payment or subtracted before payment is made. Family Child Care offers an extended duty program for those needing care after hours; this is a fee program. For more information, please contact the FCC coordinator at **895-1212**.

Goals for leaders in 2004 Commitment vital to future improvements

By Lt. Col. John McDevitt
55th Fighter Squadron operations officer

As we continue to speed ahead in 2004, how are those resolutions coming along? Is that new piece of workout equipment still getting put to daily use, or has it already become a convenient place to hang your uniform?

Resolutions continue to be a way people can start a new year in the hopes of improving some aspect of their lives. Leaders can and should do the same.

Part of the problem in keeping resolutions revolves around the fact there are good and bad ways to create and implement them. Resolutions, like goal setting, need to be realistic, achievable and documented. I'm sure there are plenty of resolutions out there that don't last very long and even may have a negative impact because they breed frustration.

Before taking any action, leaders and followers should use this "resolution" time of year for reflecting on the past year. Most of us probably have a stack of award folders on our desk recounting the achievements of our unit and personnel. Well, what about your own leadership award package? Unlike most award writing, this package should contain the good, the bad and the ugly.

All of us demand and expect integrity in all we do, but it's often easy to cover up flaws when we look in the mirror. Give yourself some quality time this year just as you have for those

Company Grade Officer and NCO of the Year packages. Learning from our mistakes is one of human nature's best teachers, but we still need to capture those lessons, figure out why the mistakes happened, and then develop a plan to attack those shortcomings.

Here is some food for thought in this endeavor. When was the last time you took a good look at those goals hanging outside your office? Roles and missions in the Air Force are transforming all the time, and your goals may need to be transformed and communicated as well.

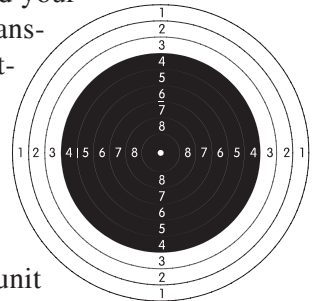
Do you know your airmen by the back of their heads? It's important to know the people in your unit well, from the lowest to highest ranking, and not just their next Enlisted Performance Report or Officer Performance Report due date. It's reported Julius Caesar could recognize every man in his legion by name.

Most of us don't have photographic memories, but have we really spent all the time we could mentoring and getting to know the people in our shop?

How are you doing with the Chief of Staff's Reading List? I'll admit, I haven't made much of a dent, but we could all do better. Good leaders study other leaders. Are we exhibiting traits we disliked in previous leaders we worked for?

This past year has been a fantastic one for Team Shaw. Accolades and awards were well deserved all around. But let's not allow those shining stars to blind us to some areas we need to improve.

Give yourself time to reflect and rewrite those personal leadership goals in the back of your overstuffed day planner. It will make for an even better 2004.



Are you on target in 2004?

The Shaw Spirit

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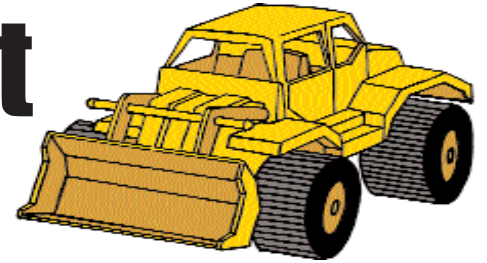
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If you could fund one project at Shaw, what would it be?



Photos by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Adams, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron -- "I would build an airmen's center closer to the dorms with even more recreational activities."



Airman Levar Jackson, 20th Mission Support Squadron -- "We need a new gym, a basketball court with hardwood floors and an indoor track above it." ¹



Senior Airman Bradley Baker, 609th Air Communications Squadron -- "I would build a larger parking lot for the dorms, so there are more spaces available for airmen."



Senior Airman Brandy Cabana, 20th Mission Support Squadron -- "It would be great if our club had a larger dance floor and more entertainment." ²

1. "Installation of hardwood floors for the basketball court in the Fitness Center is scheduled to begin in March, with completion at the end of May. Also, an addition that will nearly double the size of the Fitness Center is scheduled for construction in 2006."
2. "Increased club membership means more revenue and more programs. So join up today!" (Answers by Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander)